

MACEDONIAN TOPONOMASTICS
Popular Etymologies and Etymological Popularities

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In a world in which attempts are being made to eradicate obscene toponyms, e.g. the efforts in Turkey and the Soviet Union, it is comforting to discover a region in which the opposite process can be observed, i.e. the folk-etymologizing of originally innocent place names into obscene ones. In the Ohrid-Prespa basin of southwestern Macedonia, there are no less than three toponyms which have been re-etymologized, viz. *Dupeni*, *Podmočani*, and *Laikurec*. The name *Dupeni* comes from *dup(k)a* "hole", but a variant, *dupe*, has come to mean "ass." Since there are now two villages in the same administrative district with this name, they are distinguished as *Gorno Dupeni* and *Dolno Dupeni*, "Upper Ass" and "Lower Ass" in the popular mind. The name of the village *Podmočani* comes from the archaic verb *moči* "soak." It is said that a Turk drowned near the village, hence its name. In modern Macedonian, however, *moča* means "piss", so the name of the village sounds like a verbal adjective meaning "pissed-under", "piddled-on", or "piss-soaked", depending on the interpretation of the prefix *pod-*. In this region there is also a fountain called *Lajkurec*, from *lae* "howl" + *kurt* "wolf" (Turkish). In modern Macedonian, the Turkish word *kurt* has been forgotten, while the ancient Slavic word *kur* has come to mean "cock" in the penile sense of the word. Hence the name is now taken to mean "Howl(ing) Cock."

There are a number of other toponyms in this region which were originally obscene and remain so today. Those involving *prdi* "fart" and *gaz* "ass" generally denote fields, hills, and rocks, while those using *kur* "prick" and *pička* "cunt" are usually for fountains, springs, and wells. A list using the original dialectal forms is supplied below:

<i>Dujgas</i> Blow-Ass	<i>Kurec</i> Prick
<i>Kršigās</i> Break-Ass	<i>Kapikur</i> Flow-Prick
<i>Pučigās</i> Stick-Out-Ass	<i>Bričen Kurec</i> Shaven Prick
<i>Zeigazec</i> Gape-Ass	<i>Pička</i> Cunt
<i>Zeigazica</i> Gape-Ass	<i>Pičkina Voda</i> Cunt Water
<i>Belo Gazec</i> White Ass	<i>Pičkin Dol</i> Cunt Vale
<i>Prdejca</i> Farteress	<i>Pičkoec</i> Cunter
<i>Prdeškov Rit</i> Farter's Hill	<i>Pički Klaenec</i> Cunt Well
<i>Prdimečkoj</i> Bear-Farter's	<i>Pičkino Klaenče</i> Cunt Well
<i>Prdlja</i> Farter	<i>Pičkino Dolište</i> Cunt Valley
<i>Prdljo Trlo</i> Farter's Sheep Pen	<i>Pičkino Dolišče</i> Cunt Valley
<i>Prdova</i> Farter's	<i>Pičkina Krasta</i> Cunt Wasteland*

*Note: *krasta* also means "scab, mange, scabies."

Reference

Pianka, Włodzimierz. *Toponomastica na obridsko-prespanskiot bazen*. Skopje: Institut za Makedonskiot Jazik, 1970.

[Editor's Note: In the clean USA, almost all "offensive" place names have been changed by governmental (busy-) bodies or by the local folks. See Lester F. Dingman, "Naughty Names: Geographic Names — Colorful or Offensive?" in *Naughty Names*, ed. Fred Tarpley (South-Central Names Institute, Publication 4, Commerce, Texas 1975), pp. 1-4. Among the ones cleaned up were *Nellies Nipples*, *Squaw Tit*, *Nipple Peak*, *Whorehouse Meadows*, *S.O.B. Rapids*, *B.S. [bullshit] Gap*, *S.H. [shit house] Butte*. But we still have *Coon Butt*, *Bald Peter*, *Smackass Gap*, *Bloody Dick Creek*, *Wee Wee Hill* and *French Broad*, as well as *Blue Balls* and *Intercourse*, not mentioned in this study.

In a humorous toponymic word list I published in *Unterrichtspraxis*, VI, No. 1 (1973), 121-23, "Wer wohnt wo in Deutschland?" the editor considered it wise to delete the following German place names: *Außernbrünst* Outside-Lust, *Buffstädt* Bordello-Town, *Dirneich* Whore-Oak, *Geilenkirchen* Horny-Churches, *Hodenbagen* Balls-Woods, *Hurlach* Whore-Laugh, *Schambaupten* Pubic Head, *Scheidegg* Vulva-Testicle, *Vegesack* Screw-Scrotum, and *Vöcklabruck* Fuckers' Bridge.]